

Maine Revised Statutes
Title 17-A: MAINE CRIMINAL CODE

Chapter 5: DEFENSES AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES; JUSTIFICATION

§104. USE OF FORCE IN DEFENSE OF PREMISES

1. A person in possession or control of premises or a person who is licensed or privileged to be thereon is justified in using nondeadly force upon another person when and to the extent that the person reasonably believes it necessary to prevent or terminate the commission of a criminal trespass by such other person in or upon such premises.

[2007, c. 173, §20 (AMD) .]

2. A person in possession or control of premises or a person who is licensed or privileged to be thereon is justified in using deadly force upon another person when and to the extent that the person reasonably believes it necessary to prevent an attempt by the other person to commit arson.

[2007, c. 173, §20 (AMD) .]

3. A person in possession or control of a dwelling place or a person who is licensed or privileged to be therein is justified in using deadly force upon another person:

A. Under the circumstances enumerated in section 108; or [1975, c. 740, §26 (NEW) .]

B. When the person reasonably believes that deadly force is necessary to prevent or terminate the commission of a criminal trespass by such other person, who the person reasonably believes:

(1) Has entered or is attempting to enter the dwelling place or has surreptitiously remained within the dwelling place without a license or privilege to do so; and

(2) Is committing or is likely to commit some other crime within the dwelling place. [2007, c. 173, §20 (AMD) .]

[2007, c. 173, §20 (AMD) .]

4. A person may use deadly force under subsection 3, paragraph B only if the person first demands the person against whom such deadly force is to be used to terminate the criminal trespass and the trespasser fails to immediately comply with the demand, unless the person reasonably believes that it would be dangerous to the person or a 3rd person to make the demand.

[2007, c. 173, §20 (AMD) .]

5. As used in this section:

A. Dwelling place has the same meaning provided in section 2, subsection 10; and [1975, c. 740, §26 (NEW) .]

B. Premises includes, but is not limited to, lands, private ways and any buildings or structures thereon. [1975, c. 740, §26 (NEW) .]

[1975, c. 740, §26 (NEW) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW). 1975, c. 740, §26 (RPR). 2007, c. 173, §20 (AMD) .

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 126th Maine Legislature and is current through August 1, 2014. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.
--